U.S. Appln No.: 10/048,123 Filed: December 3, 2001

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, and in accordance

with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §1.97, the Examiner's attention is directed to the

documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO 1449. A copy of each of the listed documents is

also enclosed. The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement should not be construed as

an admission that any particular listed reference is effective prior art or discloses or renders

obvious any aspect of the claimed invention.

This statement is being filed under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(4), before the

mailing date of a first Office action after the filing of a request for continued examination

under § 1.114.

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner

and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information

has been considered.

Authorization is hereby granted to charge any fees that may be required by this paper

under 37 C.F.R. §1.17 to Deposit Account 19-2570.

Respectfully submitted,

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